

*Remarks* : The Indian form is characterised by the presence of a tooth-like lateral lamella on the mucro giving the latter a bidentate appearance.

*Distribution* : Cosmopolitan (?), new record for India.

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#### 14. OCCURRENCE OF *RHINYPTIA MERIDIONALIS* V. *PUNCTICOLLIS* ARR. (SCARABAEIDÆ : COLEOPTERA) AS PEST ON BAJRA IN WESTERN RAJASTHAN

*Bajra* (*Pennisetum typhoides* Stapf and Hubb.) is one of the most important crops in Western Rajasthan occupying more than 50% of the total crop area.

We observed *Rhinyptia meridionalis* v. *puncticollis* Arr. voraciously feeding on the milky grain of different varieties of *bajra* namely RSK, RSJ, Chandy, Improved Ghana, local Shekhavati of *bajra* in Churu areas, Hybrid *bajra*, HB-I, and local varieties in Mathania areas of Western Rajasthan. These Scarabaeid beetles are probably a new record as agricultural pests. Besides these, *Mylabris phalerata* Pall. and *Cantharis tenuicollis* Pall. (Coleoptera: Meloidae) caused considerable loss by sucking the juice of milky grain. In case of severe attack, the earhead of *bajra* was observed to be almost without any grain.

These pests are a great menace to the *bajra* crop in arid regions and require detailed investigation regarding their biology and bionomics in order to plan effective control measures. In a preliminary study during the year 1968-69 at Churu, monthly collections of *Rhinyptia meridionalis* v. *puncticollis* Arr. were made during full moon and new moon nights.

Observations were taken, two hours after sunset with the help of a petromax lamp in a fixed spot as the beetle is nocturnal in habit.

Out of the total collection (564) of the beetle 95.2% occurred during the crop season (July to November), 3.6% during the summer (March to June) and 1.2% during the winter (December to February). This indicates their predominant occurrence during the crop season. Marked differences were also observed in the frequency of the beetle during the nights of new and full moon. For instance, out of the total collection (537) of the beetles in crop season only 2.4% were observed during bright nights. Similarly out of total collection (20) of the beetles in summer, only 5% were collected on bright nights. These observations indicate that the beetles prefer dark night for their activity. Therefore suitable and timely control measures should be devised for minimising the loss in crop yield.

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#### 15. OCCURRENCE OF *LEPIDIUM VIRGINICUM* LINN. IN NETARHAT PLATEAU (BIHAR)

(With a plate)

While studying the flora of Netarhat Plateau, Bihar, in 1971, we collected some specimens of *Lepidium virginicum* Linn. (Brassicaceae) growing as a weed in gardens and lawns. In Indian Herbaria, this taxon has often been labelled as *L. ruderale* Linn.; the latter characterized by